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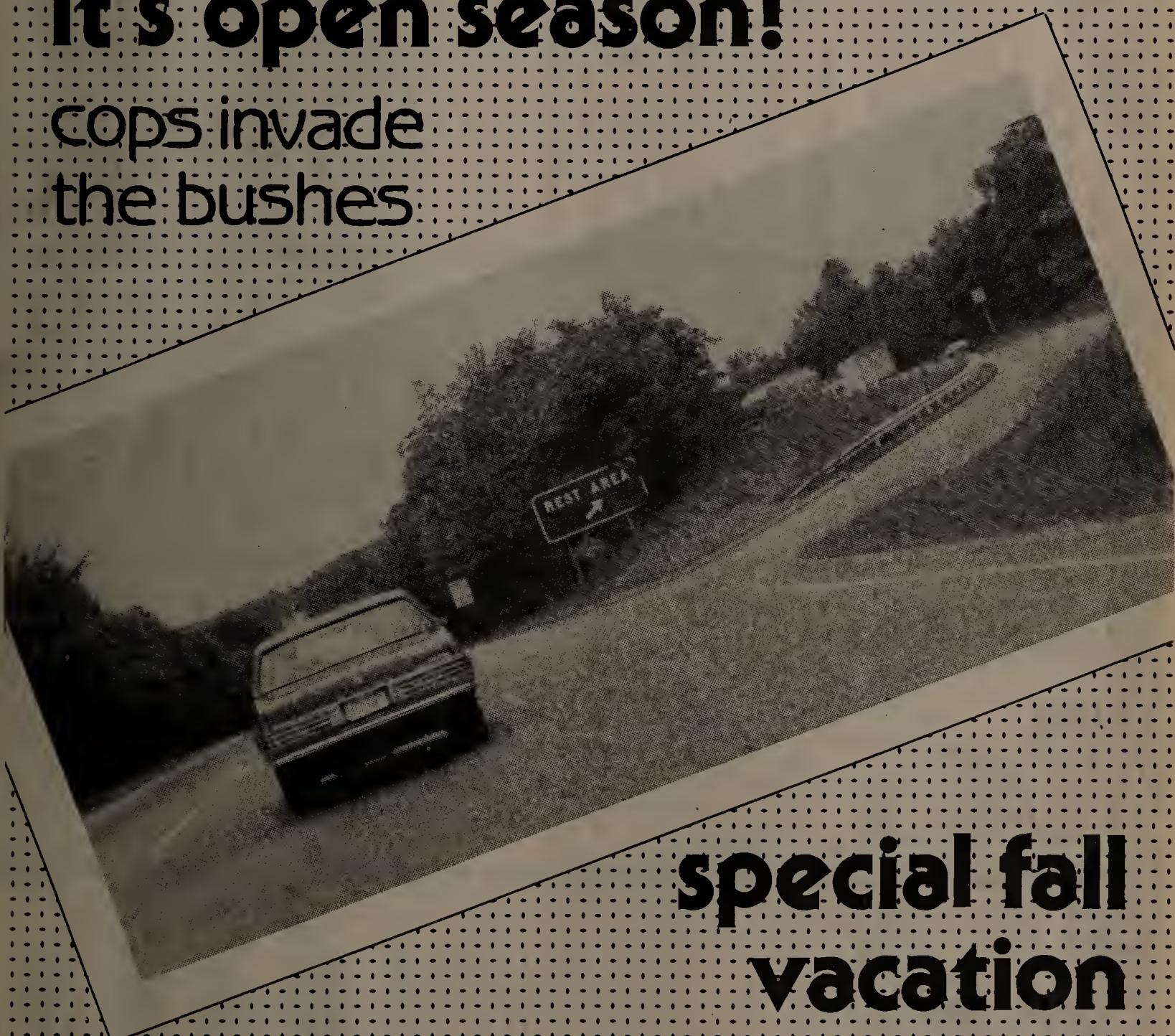
THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

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cops invade
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special fall
vacation
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GayCommunityNews

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August 25 and September 1, 1984

Gay Advocates, Catholics Debate Executive Order

By Bob Nelson

NEW YORK — A Manhattan State Supreme Court judge heard arguments on August 14 on whether religious agencies that do business with New York City should continue to enjoy an exemption from the city's executive order prohibiting employment discrimination against gay people which the groups have refused to sign.

Judge Alvin F. Klein admitted about five reporters to chambers behind the courtroom where a sometimes heated debate took place. Klein's first decision, taken before reporters were allowed in, was to permit the filing of amicus briefs by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The filing of the briefs had been opposed by religious agencies who were plaintiffs in the hearing.

Klein then promised he would render "a quick decision" on whether the agencies — New York's Catholic Archdiocese, the Salvation Army, and Agudath Israel of America, an orthodox Jewish group — should be granted a preliminary ruling continuing the exemption. Mayor Ed Koch had announced an agreement with the groups on June 20 permitting the exemptions until the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, could hear arguments on the constitutionality of the executive order itself, expected later this year.

Assistant Corporation Counsel

Dennis DeLeon, arguing for the city, found himself in the awkward position of opposing the mayor's agreement with the religious groups, but maintained that new facts in the case warranted the city's about-face. "We've been told by organizations that protect gay and lesbian youth that workers at some of the religious agencies are afraid to service gay or lesbian kids because they're afraid they'll be accused of being gay or lesbian themselves," DeLeon said. "We hadn't expected this grassroots reaction when the mayor entered into this stipulation."

DeLeon added that the city hadn't checked out the allegations contained in affidavits filed with the city's brief.

John P. Hale, counsel for the Catholic Archdiocese, called DeLeon's claims a "gratuitous insult." Hale said that young male prostitutes who seek shelter at Under 21/Covenant House, a Catholic center for runaways in Times Square, were never turned away. "Don't you say that Catholic Charities isn't charitable," he said, his voice rising as he pointed at DeLeon. "Don't you tell me that?"

Hale added that his daughter was a volunteer who cared for AIDS patients at St. Vincent's, a Catholic hospital in Greenwich Village, and that this was evidence the Archdiocese did not discriminate in providing services to the public.

The city has threatened to cancel \$80 million in contracts with the

religious groups if they do not sign the executive order. Among the affidavits filed with the city briefs was one from former Human Resources administrator, James A. Krauskopf, who said that city childcare agencies would be able to house the 6000 or so children now handled by the religious groups. Hale raised the point that Krauskopf resigned the day after filing the affidavit because of a continuing child abuse scandal involving workers at city youth centers, implying that the religious centers were better homes for the runaways.

But the city's affidavits also included a statement from Joyce Hunter, program director at the Institute for the Protection of Gay and Lesbian Youth. Hunter said that in a previous job as a social worker, she had been furnished with a referral list that stated homosexuals were not admitted to Under 21/Covenant House. In a telephone interview, Hunter said the list dated from 1980. She added that effeminate gay teenagers who went to Covenant House were harassed by other young people, and that the gay teens were usually considered the source of the problem by Covenant House counsellors.

"I once got a call from a 16-year-old that still bothers me," Hunter said. "He had no place to stay and it was already late in the day, so I said, 'What about Under 21?' He told me that if that was all I could offer him, he'd rather stay in the street."



Larry Goldsmith looks at police entrapment in rest areas, page 3.

Jim McNeil

Gays Protest Straight Olympics

By Ted Stroll

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Several gay activists, most of them Stanford University students, distributed 2,500 protest leaflets to spectators attending the July 29 opening Olympic soccer match in this wealthy suburb 30 miles south of San Francisco and 400 miles north of the principal Olympic site.

The leaflet, published by the ad hoc Coalition Against Olympic Homophobia (CAOH), informed spectators of the United States Olympic Committee's successful barring of the term "Olympic" from the 1982 Games, whose original title was the "Gay Olympic Games."

The USOC obtained a federal court injunction forbidding use of the word and now is seeking \$96,000 in court costs from the Gay Games' organizers, even though the group dropped the term upon losing the suit and even blacked it out on T-shirts already emblazoned with "Olympic."

"CAOH holds that the term 'olympic' is an ancient and generic one," the organization's flyer read, "denoting not only the official Olympic Games, but any challenging event or competition. The USOC should have no right to deny use of the term to any group." The U.S. Congress granted that right to the USOC.

Ironically, "the ancient Olympics in Greece were one of the high points of a civilization entirely devoid of homophobia, indeed, a culture where homosexual behavior was institutionalized as a positive social force," the pamphlet said. "In a sense, the original Olympics were all gay Olympics."

Most of the spectators who received the leaflet as they entered Stanford Stadium seemed receptive. The most negative reaction came from 14- to 17-year-olds of both sexes. Two teenage girls tried to stuff a crumpled pamphlet down a distributor's shirt, and were struck by him. The girls' mother later apologized.

The largely positive response was all the more surprising for the atmosphere in which the game took place. The fans, who appeared overwhelmingly suburban and heterosexual and were clustered in families, had been consuming large quantities of liquor and food at tailgate parties that went on for hours in the hot sun.

Very few were aware of the issue being protested. According to one of the leafletters, even some gay soccer fans said they had no knowledge of the USOC's homophobic action.

As the leaflet noted, "literally hundreds of other organizations (among them various police olympics, frog-jumping olympics, chili-cooking olympics, and the well-known Special Olympics) are allowed to use the word without permission and without persecution. The Gay Olympics are the only ones the USOC has chosen to harass."

The next Gay Games are scheduled to take place in San Francisco in 1986.

The protest organizers said that letters protesting the USOC's harassment of games organizers should be directed to the USOC at 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

Anti-Gay Referendum Fails

By Jim Ryan

BETHESDA, MD — The Montgomery County, Maryland, Board of Supervisors of Elections voted July 26 to throw out a referendum challenge to the county's human rights law.

Pamela Brewington, president of the board, said, "The wording of the petition was legally insufficient."

The controversy began in February when the County Council adopted legislation that added the terms "sexual orientation" to the county's human rights statute. In spite of intense lobbying by opponents of the bill, County Executive Charles W. Gilchrist signed the legislation. A group calling itself Citizens for A Decent Government then began to collect signatures on a petition to force a November referendum vote on the bill. The group collected 23,724 signatures, though only 15,750

were required.

Once the signatures were verified, it became the job of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to make a judgment on the legality of the petition itself. The board found that the petition was technically flawed in two ways: first, it did not, as required, include the title of the law. Secondly, it sought a referendum on only those sections of the law dealing with sexual orientation. The county charter does not allow referenda on sections of law. So, the law as originally enacted by the council remains in force in Montgomery County.

As expected, the Citizens for A Decent Government are disappointed and not about to give up. The Rev. Robert Crowley, a Baptist minister who heads the group, said, "We will exercise all legal remedies to overturn this ruling." It is likely that Crowley's group will attempt to sue the Board of

Supervisors of Elections.

R.N. Coggin, co-chair of the Suburban Maryland Lesbian/Gay Alliance, pointed out, "The Maryland courts are extremely conservative. It's not unlikely that they will overturn the Board's decision. We are nowhere close to being out of the woods."

Coggin's organization is continuing its campaign to educate the public in Montgomery County. "We want to make sure," said Coggin, "that people understand that this is a question of civil rights, not of morality. We also want to counteract the homophobia and hatred that Rev. Crowley and his followers have been trying to inject into this community."

To donate time or money to the Suburban Lesbian/Gay Alliance, write to: The Suburban Maryland Lesbian/Gay Alliance, P.O. Box 30301, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Seneca Peace Camp Marks Second Season

By Sue Hyde

SENECA FALLS, NY — Should Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro accept an invitation to the Women's Equality Day celebration here on August 26, she will be privileged to share the speaker's rostrum with a representative of the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice, aka the Seneca Women's Peace Camp. Open for its second summer, the Peace Camp was established to protest the storage and deployment of nuclear weapons at the

Seneca Army Depot near Romulus, N.Y.

Ferraro has been invited to address the celebration by a coalition of feminist and peace groups, organizers of a day-long observance commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Besides Ferraro and a Peace Camp representative, other speakers may include New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, Rhoda P. Jenkins, great-granddaughter of Seneca Falls' own Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Bella Abzug and others.

Speechifying begins at 11:00 a.m. at the town bandstand in Gazebo Park, with other events to follow.

President Ronald Reagan had been invited to attend the dedication of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, but the ceremony was scratched by National Park Service officials when it became apparent that the house wouldn't be ready for a grand opening on August 26.

Although Reagan has not formally declined the invitation, National Park Service employee Judy Hart told *GCN* that none of the

anticipated security preparations were yet underway. Hart concluded that Reagan would not be coming; a conclusion confirmed by a call to the White House. Reagan, it seems, will take note of women's equality on his home ground in Washington, D.C.

It's just as well for Reagan, because the women at the Peace Camp planned a large protest of his domestic and foreign policies.

Camp spokeswoman Deb Zelenik said the Equality Day activities will be sandwiched by other programs, including a Sabbath

service on Friday evening, August 24; Saturday workshops on anger, spirituality, and conflict resolution; a Living Museum of Women's Struggle and Resistance; and opening and closing protests at the Depot.

Zelenik said anti-militarist affinity groups are encouraged to join the Peace Camp on August 25 and 26 for planned civil disobedience actions at the Depot. All other interested women are welcome also. For information, call (607) 869-5825.

News Notes

quotes of the week

"One woman called in during the show and started screaming at me to go back to Africa. And then she added, 'Besides, you are a lesbian!' So I said to her, 'See, lady, just because I'm wearing my Super Dyke t-shirt, you think that I'm a lesbian. I guess if I wore a string of pearls, you would think I was an oyster.'"

— The irrespressible Florence Kennedy, civil rights activist and feminist, recounting a phone call she received during an appearance on the *Phil Donahue Show*, Philadelphia Gay News, August 16, 1984.

"...Ronald Reagan's Presidency will go down in history as the most outstanding of the century. Gays and lesbians are direct beneficiaries of the administration's ability to dramatically reduce inflation and interest rates, increase employment, rebuild our national defense and our overseas image, and finally get our unwieldy government under control. Thanks to a strong defense and economy, gays and lesbians enjoy more freedom in our Republic than in any other country in the world, certainly more than in any communist nation."

— An excerpt from testimony delivered by Bruce Decker, founding member of Concerned Americans for Individual Rights, to an ad hoc platform hearing conducted by the Republican Party, July 30, 1984 in Washington, D.C.

who's afraid?

ARLINGTON, TX — A community theatre cancelled the last three performances of an all-male production of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on August 2 after the author requested the show be shut down, according to the *New York Times*. Director Dov Fahrer said he cast the play with four men because a "very, very close friend of Albee's" told him Albee had written the script for an all-male cast, but changed it when he was told audiences would not want to see a play about homosexuals.

Albee, however, denied that allegation, saying, "If I had wanted to [write a homosexual play], I would have." Albee said he had heard of three or four previous all-male productions of the play, all of which were closed by his agents.

Theatre Arlington's all-male production of *Virginia Woolf* had drawn the attention of three conservative city councilmen in this city of 100,000. The councilmen also wanted the play shut down, but for reasons of homophobia, not aesthetics. Tate Kelly, the chairman of the theatre board, noted, "We are not — double underlined — closing down the play at the request of the councilmen. What we regret is ... is that this whole thing has gotten wrapped up in the censorship issue. This is going to in a way vindicate the councilmen."

resisting reagan

BOSTON — The Boston Chapter of National Organization for Women (NOW) will organize a picket outside the Massachusetts Republican State Committee and Reagan-Bush headquarters at 73 Tremont St. on August 22 at noon to coincide with Reagan's nomination for a second presidential term. Picketers will focus attention on the disastrous impact Reagan's policies have had on women and their families.

NOW chapters across the country are planning similar pickets at other local Republican Party campaign headquarters. For more information in Boston, call 661-6015; for information elsewhere, contact your local NOW office.

resisting racism

The International Association of Black and White Men Together has published a manual to guide gay and lesbian groups in an exploration of racism in the community. Gerald Mallon edited *Resisting Racism: An Action Guide*, produced by the IABWMT Education Committee.

The guide is divided into three sections: Workshop Outlines; Resource Materials; and Bibliographies. Workshop Outlines provides topic lists, questions, suggestions for materials to be used and guidelines for a group facilitator. The second section, Resource Materials, contains some of the materials suggested for use in the workshops, as well as helpful information. And the Bibliographies cover literature and non-fiction, books and articles.

Resisting Racism is available for \$15 per copy. Make checks payable to IABWMT. Send requests to Gerald Mallon, 250 Ridge Pike #136A, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444.

reward offered

SAN FRANCISCO — Mayor Feinstein offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of youths who fatally beat a gay man on Polk Street last month, according to the San Francisco *Examiner*. And city Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver said she will ask the Board of Supervisors to appropriate \$5000 more reward money in the case. "Gay bashing has become a grim sport," Silver said.

Dennis John O'Connell, 40, died a few days after he was beaten by four to six youths who shouted "faggot" and "queer" during the attack. Police reported no new leads in their search for the young men.

Police officials who work with gay-related assaults said that queerbashes are on the increase this summer in San Francisco. Investigator Ron Huberman, who handles gay-related crimes for the district attorney's office, said, "Traditionally, we see an increase in the summer months because you've got more young people on the streets."

lesbians pinched for public sex

MADISON, WI — Two lesbians face charges stemming from a July incident in which they were arrested for having sex in a park here, according to *Out!* newspaper. Assistant District Attorney Steve Bablitch will press charges against the women, although he declined to pursue charges against a heterosexual couple arrested in June for having sex in a park. Both cases occurred in daylight and the arrests were precipitated by citizen complaints.

Bablitch says his decision is not prejudicial against the women, however. He claims that the straight people were partially covered by bushes and believed no one was around to see them. Bablitch said he would prosecute the women because they were in plain view of others, especially children.

The lesbians are charged under a little known statute barring "acts of sexual gratification in public." If found guilty, they face a maximum penalty of nine months in jail and/or a fine of \$10,000.

The statute is included in legislation passed last year which decriminalized private, consensual sex between adults, but established penalties for public sex.



partner beneficiaries

BERKELEY, CA — The Berkeley School Board voted on August 1 to include the domestic partners of school district workers in benefit programs, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The benefit plan is the first in the country to take gay and lesbian relationships into account, making live-in lovers eligible for the same benefits afforded the spouses of straight, married school district workers.

A report completed in mid-July by the Berkeley City Council's Human Rights and Welfare Commission found that lesbian workers and their partners were discriminated against under the old policy. It was this report as well as a decision by the city council to delay action on an identical measure covering city workers which prompted the school board's vote. The Berkeley City Council will conduct a second vote on a final draft of the city plan on September 18.

Under the school district plan, unmarried couples must file an "affidavit of domestic partnership" attesting that the employee and the partner live together "and share common necessities of life." Couples must be over 18 and declare they are each other's sole domestic partner and that "they are responsible for their common welfare." If a couple breaks up, a statement of termination must be filed and a worker's new partner would not be eligible until six months after the end of the previous relationship.

Berkeley officials estimate that 36 of its gay workers will apply for domestic partner benefits, at a cost to the city of \$42,000 a year.

art copped by sex police

SYDNEY — Three works of art by the Melbourne artist, Juan Davila, depicting homoeroticism are the latest targets for New South Wales morals campaigners.

Police seized three of Davila's paintings in a ten-artist exhibition entitled *The Romance Show*, saying the paintings are indecent. The exhibition had been on display since July 6.

Following a complaint by The Call to Australia, the political arm of the rightwing Festival of Light, that the pictures were obscene, the Sydney Vice Squad visited the month-long exhibition in its final week. The gallery director was then issued a warrant under the Indecent Articles and Publications Act and the three Davila pictures were confiscated.

Ron Goodrick of The Call to Australia claimed that "this sort of art hindered the chance of young people to grow up in an emotionally stable environment." He described the gay subjects portrayed by the artist as "absolute filth" and "shameful." When it was pointed out that a sign at the entry to the exhibition asserted that some of the exhibits might be offensive, Goodrick claimed that no attempt was made to stop children going in.

The artist, Juan Davila, is no stranger to controversy. In April 1982 in Sydney, the NSW Vice Squad seized a \$10,000 Davila painting with gay overtones after a Festival of Light complaint. At that time the Premier of NSW intervened and commented that art had nothing to do with the Vice Squad and expressed surprise that a Sydney gallery had been "invaded."

one chief too many

COLUMBUS, OH — When gay and lesbian activists here confronted the local police chief about queerbaiting by his officers, he responded by appointing a liaison between the department and the gay/lesbian community, according to the Ohio State University *Lantern*. But if the liaison and the rest of the boys in blue reflect the chief's attitudes, Columbus gay folk may be in no better shape than before.

Chief Dwight Joseph told about 75 people at an August 2 meeting that gay people who complain of police harassment are paranoid. Last May, a meeting between Joseph and Stonewall Union president Rhonda Rivera was prompted by a series of anti-gay incidents, including cops' taunting gays outside bars and arrests for jaywalking and drunk driving. Joseph, however, admonished the town queers, saying, "We have police officers that are opposed to your lifestyle and that's their right. I can't change attitudes. Just maybe some of you are being a little paranoid about why you're being stopped."

One audience member countered, "Columbus cops are swarming all over gay bars, but you never see them at any of the other bars. If you're going to enforce the laws, enforce them equally."

Joseph was asked if the department has an anti-gay hiring policy. "Not that I'm aware of," he replied. Shouldn't you know?" he was asked.

"I can't know everything," Joseph wisely answered.

When asked what he would do if there were an openly gay officer on the force, Joseph replied, "I've thought long and hard about that — I really don't know."

Decoys Roam the Woods

Police Entrapment: The Summer Season Opens



By Larry Goldsmith

The history of the public park as a gay male cruising area dates back at least to August, 1862, when Jean Baptiste von Schweitzer and a young friend were distracted from their passions *al fresco* by two women strolling through the urban greenery of Mannheim, Germany. Schweitzer, a prominent socialist who later won election to the Reichstag, served two weeks in prison on a charge of public indecency.

The stiff sentence did little to buttress scholarly arguments for punishment-as-social deterrent. For while Schweitzer may have turned to more discreet forms of pleasure and pursued a respectable political career, gay men have continued to use the world's parks, beaches and roadside rest areas to meet, cruise and have sex. Unmindful, perhaps, of the failure of the deterrent, police have continued to use gay men as public examples of the statutory transgressions known as "indecent assault and battery," "lewd and lascivious behavior," and "open and gross lewdness."

The recent well-publicized arrests of eight men near Norwell, Massachusetts and 14 more in Cambridge have brought this seasonal issue (dependent upon the weather and, some say, on the biennial occurrence of elections for district attorney) into the public eye. Gay men, of course, know what's going on before the *Boston Globe*, the *Herald* and a dozen suburban papers publish the names, towns and occupations of the men arrested, and before local television stations wire the police for sound and send camera crews into the woods. Local gay attorneys report an increase in their workloads. Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a local advocacy group, gets requests for help. And frightened people call *GCN* with news tips.

One man says he saw police standing guard over a naked man handcuffed to a tree in the Cambridge Bird Sanctuary. Another says a state trooper approached him as he sat in his car at a rest area. The trooper demanded the man's name, address and license number and noted the information on something he called a "CIB Card." The information, said the trooper, would be turned over to the state's Criminal Investigation Bureau and the FBI; if the man was found again in the rest area, he would be arrested. A man says he was in the woods and saw another man. He walked toward the stranger and suddenly a police officer appeared from behind the bushes and arrested them both. A man arrested on parkland controlled by the state's Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) was roughed up, called a faggot and subjected to repeated taunts about AIDS.

People on the other side have a few stories themselves. Chelmsford Selectman [sic] Norman Thidemann told *GCN* last year that a rest area on the edge of his town "has become notorious as a gathering place for people who engage in homosexual type activities."

"Specific people have been in the woods and come across a couple of men doing whatever they're doing, men walking hand in hand naked through the woods, things of that nature," Thidemann said, noting that one outraged resident "went after a couple of naked men with a chainsaw, well, because they were doing whatever they were doing up there."

Asked what he thought of that response, Thidemann replied, "I don't make those kind of judgments.... It's certainly inappropriate for two men to be naked in the woods doing whatever they were doing with each other in full view of people. That's inappropriate behavior, that's deviate behavior and that's not something that somebody should have to put up with." That particular rest area was closed by an act of the state legislature, sponsored by Sens. Carol Amick (D-Bedford) and Philip Shea (D-Lowell).

More recently, State Police Lt. Robert Comtois, who has worked as a plainclothes decoy, told the *Boston Herald*, "The picnic tables are full of families and kids, and 50 yards away you've got guys walking around touching each other." Comtois told *GCN* that state police were responding to reports of "an overabundance of males walking around in the rest area.... You know as well as I know, you can pick up the vibes, overfriendliness."

Police generally use two different methods to make these arrests. In some cases, uniformed or plainclothes officers will search through a known cruising area until they discover gay men in the woods. In such cases, they'll arrest and charge the men with "lewd and lascivious behavior" (a six-month misdemeanor usually interpreted to mean consensual touching or groping), "open and gross lewdness" (a three-year felony, usually applied to exposure or mutual masturbation) or "unnatural acts" (a five-year felony specifically

referring to oral or anal intercourse).

In other instances, police operate undercover, strolling through cruising areas in street clothes, staring, smiling and striking up conversations with gay men in the area. If a gay man touches any part of their body, they'll arrest and charge him with "assault and battery" (a 2½-year misdemeanor), "indecent assault and battery" (a five-year felony considered a form of rape under Massachusetts law) or "assault and battery on a police officer" (a 2½-year felony, ostensibly used only when the gay man knows the man he's touching is a cop).

Jan Platner, a Boston attorney who has defended many of the men arrested in local parks and rest areas, calls the undercover tactics a form of entrapment.

If you're standing somewhere," Platner says, "staring at someone, cruising a guy, you go over and stand by a tree, then he comes over and touches you — that's implied consent to me." But, she adds, "entrapment is a loser defense.... It's almost impossible to prove."

John Ward, a former Boston attorney now practicing in San Francisco, agrees. "One of the things that is required to establish the defense of entrapment is for the defendant to establish that he didn't have a subjective predisposition to commit the crime," says Ward, who has defended hundreds of gay men on such charges. "It's very, very difficult to establish that to a jury that's convinced that all homosexuals are eager to have sex with anybody under any circumstances. But I think that entrapment is present because there's certainly no predisposition to have sex with someone who isn't willing. These cops hold themselves out as willing and then charge people with assault, but anybody who knows anything about sex in cruising areas knows that the last thing anybody wants to do is touch someone who doesn't want to be touched."

Most of the decoy operations are conducted by Massachusetts State Police in rest areas along the state's highways, particularly Rte. 3 in Weymouth, North Chelmsford and Billerica, and parts of Rtes. 195, 95, 495 and 128. The MDC has jurisdiction over cruising areas in the Blue Hills Reservation, the Sheep's Fold section of the Fellsway in Medford, Norumbega Park in Weston, the Bird Sanctuary in Cambridge, the Esplanade and the perimeter of the Fens in Boston.

MDC police usually use surveillance rather than decoy operations. At an April 5, 1983 meeting attended by GLAD president Richard Burns, Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance treasurer Timothy McFeeley and this reporter, MDC Commissioner William Geary said he had ordered an end to the use of decoy officers. The 14 men arrested in the Cambridge Bird Sanctuary during the week of August 5, however, were arrested by decoys; ten of those men face assault charges. A camera crew from a local television station documented the decoy operation for broadcast to the living rooms of Greater Boston.

Steve Burgay, executive assistant to Commissioner Geary, told *GCN* the operation in the Bird Sanctuary "has come to a halt." "The commissioner did not know that the operation was going on until the day after that newscast," Burgay said. "His position has not changed since that meeting."

However, Burgay said, MDC police will continue to investigate complaints and make arrests where necessary. "Any kind of activity of a sexual nature is simply unlawful," Burgay warned. "That's the law and he's going to enforce it."

* * *

Lt. Sean Mannion enforces the law in the MDC's Upper Basin District, which covers the Charles River from the Boston University Bridge to the Bird Sanctuary. Mannion, an affable cop of the sort often found dealing with the public, has in his hand the daily journal of arrests I have come to see. Although the journal itself is a public record, available, according to statute, "without charge to the public during regular business hours and at all other reasonable times," the entries I have come to see, according to Mannion, are confidential. The Massachusetts Rape Shield Law protects all information regarding "sexual assaults." (A later call to the state's Bureau of Public Records confirms this; they tell me it doesn't matter that the Rape Shield Law was meant to protect the identities of rape victims and the "victims" in these cases are police decoys.)

I explain to Mannion that I have no interest in the names of the men arrested; I'm merely interested in the number of arrests and the general circumstances surrounding each incident. We agree to go over the journal together, and I will note only the date, time, place and the charges brought. As we turn through the pages, Mannion provides me with a running commentary.

On the night the Olympics started, he tells me, the station got a call about a naked man "handcuffed to a tree with the hair shaved from his balls." A car was dispatched to free the man, and he was sent home.

I got a call last summer, I tell him, from a man who says he saw MDC police standing guard over a naked man handcuffed to a tree.

"I've been here for six years as the Lieutenant and I am privy to everything that goes on, and I am not aware of that happening," Mannion says. "We have an obligation to protect them the same as everybody else. We have gone down there in the past and found them beaten and abused."

The conversation turns to decoys versus surveillance. "If we go down there in uniform they can see us coming," says the lieutenant. "The only thing we can do is walk through there from time to time.... We used plainclothes last week. That's how we made all those arrests." The plainclothes operation has been stopped, he acknowledges. But he says he's unaware of a standing order against such tactics. "That

doesn't mean it won't be started again if there's a need," he tells me.

"I would like you to put in that that [area] will continue to be patrolled and arrests will be made, because an officer is obliged to make an arrest, to act, if he sees a crime committed."

We look at some more arrests in the journal. "I think the legitimate gays are being — guys are going down there and using them," Mannion says. "They themselves are nothing but perverts. They're leading a straight life."

"Years ago I tended bar and this particular guy I remember, when he'd run out of money he'd say 'I'll go get some fag to give me a blow job and he'll give me ten dollars.' That's how he'd get ten dollars and get some more to drink. Those are the kind of people I don't like, the ones who take advantage of the ones who are legitimately gay."

"Our job is not a pleasant one," adds the lieutenant. "It's like 'driving under' [the influence of alcohol]. We go out and arrest a guy for 'driving under' and we say 'I wish I didn't have to do this.'"

We count 17 arrests, three in Norumbega Park, near the intersection of Rtes. 3 and 128 in Weston, and the rest in the Cambridge Bird Sanctuary. There are two or three arrests per day from Sunday, August 5 to Friday, August 10. There were no arrests this year before that time, Mannion says, and there have been none since, the decoy operation having been discontinued.

* * *

"For years, there have been a huge volume of arrests, all over the state, for rest area sex," says attorney John Ward. "In Chelmsford, for example, there are literally hundreds of arrests that are brought into the Lowell District Court every year for that one rest area. It's an attractive arrest because it's easy and the crime charge is normally a felony, so it enhances the kind of statistics that police officers are interested in obtaining for themselves. It represents work done, tangible results, and very little cost. It's not dangerous. It's easy. I suppose it might be mildly unpleasant for some of them although others are clearly titillated and others are working out their personal agendas, psychopathological issues, by arresting gay men."

In justifying the large numbers of arrests made and the police resources devoted to park and rest area operations, police often claim that they are merely following up on the complaints of offended citizens. Yet the complainants' names written on police records are always the names of police officers. Asked to identify the citizens, the police invariably cite confidentiality laws and citizens' distaste for publicity. One government official contacted by *GCN* justified such anonymity on the grounds that the complainants might be gay people who fear retribution from their own community. Accusations often take the form of "families" and "playing children" who police say are subjected to sexual harassment or the sight of gay men having sex on picnic tables. Chelmsford Police Chief Raymond McKeon, in an interview with *GCN* last year, offered a typical example: "I remember one parent called all excited and said her children walked in to play in the quarry and they were stopped by an individual who told them they had to get out, that they were having an orgy in there."

"I think that what's objected to," responds Ward, "is not sexual activity, which is rarely or never seen, but the presence of homosexuals. That is frightening to Middle Americans, and I think that what has perhaps changed is the sophistication of Americans in recognizing that, oh yes, these men who come here are homosexuals. There may have been a time when that didn't dawn on them."

"I think that what's objected to is not sexual activity, which is rarely or never seen, but the presence of homosexuals."

"The fact is that people have always had sex outdoors," Ward says. "Teenaged couples, people who don't have other places to go. Certain areas, park areas, have always been to one extent or another lovers' lanes. And there has never, to my knowledge, been any evidence, convincing or unconvincing, that there's truly an imposition on public taste.... Homosexuals, like all other people, generally speaking, prefer to conduct their intimate affairs in private. Privacy means different things to different people, but I think that one sort of common ground is 'shielded from public view.' The way that these activities are discovered is by the police sneaking up on people who think that they have found a private spot. Never, never, never is a complaining witness brought into court. The complaining witness is always a police officer. And if indeed there are these outraged citizens, why is it they never appear in court?"

Although it's the police who do the actual arresting, it's the district attorneys in each county who decide how, and if, to prosecute individual defendants. A defendant without a prior criminal record will usually have his case "continued without a finding," an arrangement that allows the charges to be dismissed if he agrees to admit to "sufficient facts to insure a finding of guilty" and pay court costs. The charges are dropped after a specified period of time in which the defendant must remain free of any other criminal charges; his record, after the ordeal is over, is left clear.

Such an outcome might seem beneficent, but by then the person charged has gone through the harrowing, if not abusive, ordeal of arrest and booking. He runs the risk, the

Continued on page 6

Community Voices

Summertime . . .

If you looked closely, you'll notice that this week's *GCN* is a double issue and therefore will be on the stands for two weeks. Why, you ask. Because the paper will be closed the week of August 20-24 to allow our hardworking staff to take its annual summer week off.

We'll reopen Monday, August 27.

in memory of wallace hamilton

Dear *GCN*,

On September the first of 1984 will be a year that a very dear and great man in the gay community has been departed from us.

He's loved by many. In the outside and inside of prisons and mental institutions.

Wrote some of the best gay novels and gay plays in American History. Two of his greatest works were *Coming Out* and *Kevin*. He wrote over 26 gay plays.

His humor was limitless. I know. Because I was also a part of his life in the beginning of finding myself at sixteen in 1971.

His first gay novel *Christopher and Gay* wasn't really a success. Yet he was determined to become a great writer. Which he was to me even then.

This man is Mr. Wallace Hamilton. Someone that when I think of all the time we spent together and all the encouragement he gave me at succeeding in things in life, I'm very, very greatful.

I'm a southern indian and opportunities was limited for me. But Wallace would quote this line to me so much that I dreamed of it. "Honey chil, if you don't get that education for yourself, who will?" Trying his damdest to sound southern.

Wallace was Jewish. But he was curious in everything. Even to the point of where he didn't ask. But told me to fix him some ham hox and black eye peas with corn bread. The first hog meat he'd ever ate. He's really not a big eater, but he said, "Humm, those are good. Well at least you southerners can out cook us northerners in a lot of ways. I want more." He got it too.

A lot of run-a-ways found a place to sleep and eat back then. On Barrough Street in his basement apartment in West Greenwich Village, N.Y.

He contributed the last 14 years to gay people everywhere. He really wanted to see us free as in the American slogan, "The land of the free."

We've come a long way, Wallace. As you said. It has been hell. But one day we all will be equal.

As long as I live, I'll be greatful and I will not miss one year without thousands of thoughts of you.

So remember, "All love is free, provided you are free as well."

R.D. Emanuel
PO Box 137
Tillery, NC 27887

a community disservice

(*GCN* received a copy of this letter to the Program Manager of WCLZ-FM in Brunswick, Maine — Ed.)

Dear Program Manager:

This morning, at about 5:30, two male announcers were discussing an office party offered to Queen Elizabeth II, which was declined, and the comments of a radio announcer in San Francisco who offered some of that city's queens instead.

The San Francisco announcer was hardly demonstrating any sensitivity in saying it, but your announcer, in repeating the comment on the public airwaves, showed a total lack of discretion. That slur on the gay community would be reasonably considered to be in poor taste at any time, but with Charles Howard dead not even a week, with three children held for his murder, with a demonstration against gay-directed violence planned for the city of Portland this very night, that comment crossed the line from crass, boorish and sophomorically prejudiced to blatantly socially irresponsible. Comments such as that, made in the public forum of the radio, give tacit approval to public ridicule, taunting, assault and abuse, and finally murder of members of the gay community.

You describe yourself as the "People's Choice." Your station has engaged in insult and immeasurable injury to that 10-15% of the people who are gay. Do you plan to start broadcasting kike and nigger jokes next week?

It is my sincere hope that you and your station will take immediate steps to rectify this grievous wrong. Should this not occur, it will be my great pleasure to report this clearcut case of poor community service to the Federal Communication for consideration in the renewal of your license to broadcast.

Emmeline Panghurst
Greene, ME

outrageous participation

Dear *GCN*:

On Monday July 16, Wages Due Lesbians (WDL) along with the U.S. Prostitutes Collective (US PROS) attended the Women's Forum on Prostitution organized by Coyote during the week of the Democratic Convention. The forum had been boycotted by the Gay Prostitutes Collective in New York because Fred Cherry, an anti-gay campaigner, was invited to attend. According to the press release of the Gay Prostitutes Collective, "Fred Cherry from New York, has conducted a campaign against gay rights legislation but feels that he should have the freedom to buy the sexual services of women. One of Mr. Cherry's newspaper ads calls on the "homosexual" Mayor Koch to crack down on gays instead of heterosexual clients of prostitutes."

Members of WDL immediately began protesting when Cherry requested a platform to speak at the forum on Monday afternoon. We consider it outrageous that during a week when lesbians and gays are being arrested during street sweeps and for protesting against the presence of the Moral Majority in San Francisco — this man is allowed to participate in a women's forum on prostitution. Members of WDL were told to shut-up by forum organizers, that we had no right to protest Cherry speaking. One organizer said, "so what he's a bigot, he should be allowed to speak anyway." Fred was finally allowed to make a one sentence comment. We were contacted later in the week by a gay man and told Cherry was given a half hour to present his views on another day. A group of gays again protested and finally walked out of the room.

Though WDL was never offered time to explain our actions, Margaret Prescod, a panel participant and spokeswoman for US PROS and Black Women for Wages for Housework, vehemently defended lesbian women's right to protest. She made it clear that US PROS is looking to organize with members of the working class who won't sell out the fight of prostitute women, particularly those women on the bottom, Black, Native American, immigrant and lesbian. Would the forum organizers give a platform to a member of the KKK?

Ms. Prescod had given a speech earlier about prostitutes organizing with other sectors of the working class in England namely the miners and the women's peace movement. She also spoke about careerism and scabbing in the prostitutes movement. In the labor movement anyone who undermines your organizing by refusing to join with co-workers is considered a scab. Fred Cherry is a scab as long as he refuses to organize with lesbians and gays. Allowing his participation in the prostitutes movement without insisting he stop attacking gays can only be divisive to the fight to abolish all the laws against prostitutes.

Lori Nairne
Wages Due Lesbians
San Francisco, CA

prostitutes forum

Dear *GCN*:

D'Avanzo was not present at the Forum, and obviously was misinformed by whoever told him Fred Cherry was on a panel. Fred Cherry, an admitted homophobe but a reformed bigot, did put forth five years ago an unfortunate statement about gays and straights but has since become better informed on the issue and has promised not to make remarks in the future. He would even have apologized to D'Avanzo if Robert hadn't been so impolite.

Robert worked with the WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK campaign in the past, has done panels with myself until I refused to work with the group any longer because of their trashing tactics...but Robert obviously learned their techniques.

The US Pros, an outgrowth from WAGES, refused to come to the Hooker's Convention, made stupid statements about it, like there weren't any street hookers there, and there were several. Then came to the Forum and when Fred asked if he could make a statement from the floor, Margaret Prescod and friends proceeded to scream and disrupt the proceedings for half an hour 'til Flo Kennedy managed to get a few words in...like "I'll bet your parents were bigots, and you're not calling them out"...

Fred spoke all of 35 seconds and made his point, tricks weren't stigmatized and he wanted to correct the discrimination and repeal the laws. He was also willing to put his money where his mouth is, unlike any of the disrupters who came to the forum without paying.

Margo St. James
San Francisco, CA

The Lone Star Comes Through!

Texas is in the forefront this week in our "Pick Up A Friend for *GCN*" campaign, followed by Missouri and California. Thanks...and keep it up!

what giovanni's seeks

Dear *GCN*:

Thanks to Emily Matilda Kahn and Nora Mitchell for their articles (July 28 issue) about the uproar in Philadelphia over Giovanni's Room having had a booklet entitled *How to Have Sex With Kids*. The lesbian and gay men's communities here have supported the store in this media spectacular. Although, two months later (July 28), the controversy is still at a boil; I think the crisis has passed.

One correction of fact in Ms. Mitchell's article: We did not remove the booklet from our shelves because of the controversy. We had not been carrying the booklet for about two months before the controversy began (May 30), nor did we have it on order.

Giovanni's Room is looking for a consensus among the lesbian and gay leaders in Philadelphia on two points:

1. That complaints about our institutions or about individuals in our communities should be directed first to the institutions or individuals involved. If the complainant doesn't receive satisfaction, then the feminist, lesbian, and gay media are the appropriate places to address protests. It is not appropriate for lesbians and gay men to complain first and only to Republican city-council-members. After all, it doesn't help any of us if the television cameras scan the lesbian literature section at the same time the announcer talks about child abuse, which is precisely what occurred when the media descended upon us unannounced on May 30.

2. That our communities are best served by a bookstore that carries information about all perspectives of issues that concern or divide us. The fact that a store carries particular books does not mean that its owners support the point of view expressed in those books. Giovanni's Room has long carried the most interesting anti-gay/lesbian and anti-feminist books because people in our communities want and need them.

One last addition: Joan Specter, the city councilmember who brought the booklet to media attention, is married to Senator Arlen Specter (R.-Pa.), who was a chief promoter of the federal child pornography law (May '84) that destroyed any chance of the children's sex education book *Show Me* (St. Martin's Press) being published in the United States. The interest in the booklet may provide the basis for a new pornography law. Such a law may destroy who-knows what valuable books.

Our own Philadelphia intramural battle may provide the material for a new Republican moral crusade, at a time when the Republicans have spent 3½ years de-funding children's services.

Again, many thanks for your supportive coverage,

Ed Hermance
Philadelphia, PA

lesbian mom case

Dear Friends,

We are contacting you because we need your support for our friend, Marcy. Marcy lost custody of her son last year and is now facing a new court motion, recently filed by her ex-husband, that would drastically reduce visitation with her son. Her sexual preference as a lesbian has been an issue in court in the past and continues to be in the present. This case is being heard in Missouri where there is very little support for lesbian and gay rights.

Marcy needs to raise \$10,000 immediately. On June 11, 1984, she and her ex-husband reached a temporary settlement agreement, pending lengthy evaluations and mediation during the next year. The court costs, plus lawyers' fees, mandatory psychological evaluations, and all of the travel expenses will probably exceed that figure. We hope to raise as much of that money as possible by September so Marcy can have access to her son. THIS IS NOT ONLY MARCY'S FIGHT! As lesbians and gay men, we are all vulnerable to painful discrimination perpetrated by the legal system in this country. We are suggesting a donation of \$25 or whatever you can afford. Could you please make a check payable to LMNDF (Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund), earmarked for Marcy, and send it to P.O. Box 21567, Seattle, WA 98111, or to the Community Women's Center (earmarked for LMNDF), and send it to 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609? Your donation can be tax deductible.

We greatly appreciate your support — thank you!

Jeanne Jullion
Lesbian mother custody survivor
Rhiannon
Singer, teacher
Vocalist with ALIVE!
Donna Hitchens, Attorney
Founder-Lesbian Rights Project,
San Francisco
Elizabeth Hirshfeld
Lesbian mother
Community organizer

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Barbara Deming

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Barbara Deming died early on the morning of August 2 on Sugar Loaf Key, Florida at the home she shared with Jane Gopen, her lover of many years.

Barbara strove for truth all her life. She sometimes told the story of herself as a young woman in her twenties, when she, in the privacy of room and journal, had written the words, "I am a lesbian; I must face this truth." Several days later, re-reading her journal, she became afraid that someone else might see it. She cut the sentence out of the page and threw it away.

Moving around her room half an hour later, she glanced down and saw her words glaring up at her from the waste-paper basket and said to herself, "You can't throw truth away. If you try to throw it away, you get into worse trouble than the trouble you were trying to escape."

It was through her stubborn holding on to her own truth, turning it over and over, and joining it to the truths of others that Barbara taught so many of us.

Born in 1917, she worked for many years in an individual and personal way, writing short stories, poems, and literary essays. But after a trip to India, she began to read Gandhi. In 1959, after discovering the Committee for Nonviolent Action, she began her work as a nonviolent activist.

Over the next 20 years, Barbara expanded her understanding of the relationship between all struggles against violent domination. She visited Cuba, and during the U.S. war on that country, South and North Vietnam. She was arrested and



JEB

jailed during an anti-racist, civil rights demonstration in Birmingham in 1963, an inter-racial peace walk in Georgia in 1964, and a peace action at the Pentagon in 1967.

Continued on page 8

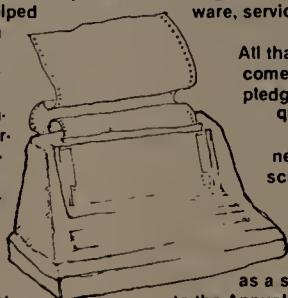
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For two years, GCN's Sustainer Program has provided the financial boost necessary for growth and change in the paper. The first Sustainer Campaign in 1982 underwrote a staff salary raise. The 1983 Campaign helped us to expand GCN from 16 pages to 20 pages each week.

The support GCN receives from its Sustainers makes the difference between bare survival and growth. This year, plans are underway to computerize GCN. Currently, several hardy volunteers spend late night hours entering our mailing list into an antique PDP 11 hidden away in distant Quincy. We pay over \$3,000.00 each year just to rent time on it! Our Marketing Department scratches pencil to paper, trying to figure out who renews their subscription and when; billing our advertisers takes even more



time, not to mention that trying to remedy subscription problems is a nightmare. You can help us change all that. Our Sustainer goal for this year is \$10,000; enough to buy the right computer, software, service contract and cover the costs of the conversion. All that's needed for you to become a GCN Sustainer is your pledge to contribute \$30. each quarter in 1984. We'll send you our quarterly *Insider* newsletter, a one year subscription to GCN, two introductory gift subs to give to your boss, relatives, long-lost ex-lovers or new-found friends, and as a special treat, an invitation to the Annual Sustainer Dinner Party in December. Use the form below and help bring GCN into the computer age.

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Outdoor Sex

Continued from page 3

ironic reassurance of the Rape Shield Law notwithstanding, of publicity; reporters intent on publishing the names, addresses and occupations of those arrested can usually obtain such information from court records, if not from the police. And he must incur the considerable expense of hiring an attorney to see him through the judicial process.

Because police are not directly accountable to the public, Ward says, the solution is to direct pressure to the district attorneys. In Middlesex County, which includes the Cambridge Bird Sanctuary, Norumbega Park and the Fellsway, Ward has met with District Attorney Scott Harshbarger, who is generally considered a liberal, and served on a citizens advisory civil rights task force Harshbarger organized. At a meeting of the task force, Ward says, "Jim Hamilton, who was the former president of the Civil Liberties Union, [spoke] up in support of a policy to dump these cases in the absence of an unusual aggravating circumstance that would demonstrate real harm to some identifiable member of the public. And pursuant to that last meeting, I wrote a lengthy memo-

randum to the assistant district attorney in charge of the criminal bureau recommending some guidelines.... And the agreement pre-election was that he wouldn't do these cases unless there was such harm. And as soon as he became elected, he began to waffle.... I personally feel ripped off. I campaigned for Harshbarger twice, and my main interest, although not my only interest, was that this anachronistic abuse was ended."

In a *GCN* interview conducted in October, 1982 and published in Vol. 10, No. 21, Harshbarger was asked if he would prosecute these cases.

"Let me be tactful about it," he replied. "I intend to exercise a great deal of control on the cases that are brought into the criminal justice system and how much time and energy are devoted to them. Whatever my personal views may be about a variety of kinds of victimless crimes, the fact is that today, that is not the kind of crime that is affecting people's lives and preventing people from walking the streets in safety. I simply think that because we have limited resources we ought to devote ourselves to serious crime and focus

on that."

Harshbarger was out of town and could not be reached for comment in this article. However, Diane Julian, Harshbarger's assistant district attorney in charge of the criminal bureau, agreed to answer questions about policies surrounding prosecutions.

"Homosexual activity which is consensual and is meant to be private is not meant to be a priority," Julian said. But she also noted that "local enforcement of criminal statutes generally rests initially with the police having jurisdiction over the particular area. Generally, if police make a valid arrest based on sufficient admissible evidence, we would generally proceed to prosecute.... There is no policy and never has been, to my knowledge, not to prosecute cases involving valid criminal complaints."

A telephone call placed to Suffolk County District Attorney Newman Flanagan was returned by Leonard Henson, Assistant District Attorney in charge of the Organized Crime Division. Asked if park and rest area arrests would be prosecuted in Suffolk County (which includes the city of

Continued on page 7

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fall vacation supplement



Books for a Vacation Yuppies, myth, fusion and role models

Lovers in the Present Afternoon

By Kathleen Fleming
Naiad Press, Inc.
P.O. Box 10543
Tallahassee, FL 32302
280 pp., \$8.50

Légende

By Jeannine Allard
Alyson Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 2783
Boston, MA 02208
125 pp., \$5.95

For Nights Like This One: Stories of Loving Women

By Becky Birtha
Frog in the Well
430 Oakdale Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
107 pp., \$4.75

Old Dyke Tales

By Lee Lynch
Naiad Press, Inc.
P.O. Box 10543
Tallahassee, FL 32302
205 pp., \$7.95

Reviewed by Amy Hoffman

I'm a notoriously fidgety beach companion, and my friends were delighted when I was given two collections of short stories and two novels recently published by feminist and gay presses to review over my summer vacation. Whenever I began clamoring for someone to take a walk with me to look for pretty rocks, or to take an invigorating dip in the vast Atlantic, I found a book shoved under my nose. Even the most mediocre of these books was at least infuriating enough to keep me still in my sand chair for as much as an hour at a time. Who needs *The Kennedys*?

As we can learn through the study of lesbian fiction, from *The Well of Loneliness* through the pulps of

the '50s through Kate Millett and Rita Mae Brown, lesbians have an innate, insatiable craving for schlock. With the growth of our movement, we no longer need to depend on straight publishers or male authors, with their ritual, self-righteous suicides; we can crank out the stuff in its pure form by and for ourselves.

Lovers in the Present Afternoon, by Kathleen Fleming, tells the coming-out story of Lynn, a college-town housewife and mother of four. In therapy for the first time, she has begun to deal with the sexual abuse she suffered from her older brothers as a child, and with her relationship with her mother, who did nothing to defend her. As Lynn becomes more self-aware and stronger, her relationship with her husband Tony, a professor, starts to fall apart. Her children are growing up and becoming independent of her. When Tony threatens that he may not always want to support her, Lynn decides to go back to college and become a teacher. Then, in one of her classes, Lynn meets Ruth.

Lynn and Ruth spend lots of time walking on the beach, cuddling on the couch, and writing poetry to each other. At first Lynn insists that this behavior is not at all unusual between women friends, and that their love for one another will provide them with a new experience of loving, which they will be able to share with their husbands and thereby save their marriages. Not being in therapy, Ruth is skeptical. Finally, the two friends become lovers. Both women's marriages split up, and Lynn wins a nasty custody battle with Tony. The book ends happily with Lynn's purchase of a duplex in which she and Ruth can be neighbors, and the lovers' discovery — with the help of a dyke-friend-ex-machina, a former babysitter of Lynn's — a whole community of yuppie lesbians. Unlike the lesbian novels of the '70s, in which the happy ending was achieved through the heroine's discovery of feminist politics, the solution to Lynn and Ruth's problems lies in the purchase of real estate.

Like the other books I'm reviewing here, *Lovers in the Present Afternoon* focuses mainly on the emotional life of the two women. This has the effect of making the plot curiously dislocated in space and time. I never figured out where Lynn and Ruth were supposed to be living: the book reads like the city's name has been changed to protect the innocent (except it had no name). Dinner parties were described in great detail, but we find out only in a flashback that Lynn's mother has died. And even though the jacket copy describes the book as "set against the turmoil of the Vietnam years" — Lynn's oldest son Anthony is involved in the anti-war movement — the war, the movement, the content of Anthony's politics, rarely intrude upon

Lynn's stream-of-consciousness, never mind her daily activity. She doesn't even watch the news. I never got a sense of Lynn as a character located in the real world.

Légende by Jeannine Allard is the tragic tale — ostensibly based on a local myth — of two generations of lesbian lovers in 19th century Brittany (hence the frenchified title). In alternating first-person accounts, three of the main characters tell their stories. Philippa is an orphan with a fascination for the sea, brought up and educated by nuns. After she finishes her schooling, Philippa transforms herself into Philippe and ships out on the *Sea Star*. However, she falls ill and rather than allow the ship's doctor to discover her secret, Philippe/Philippa leaps overboard. S/he is washed up on shore, to be discovered by Aurélie, town witch of Saint-Pol-des-Fougères, and her niece Mimi, who has lived with Aurélie since the death of her mother. Philippe/Philippa recovers at Aurélie's house, and finds employment on the Saint Pol fishing fleet. Philippe/Philippa and Aurélie fall in love and eventually "marry." They live together happily with Mimi until Philippa drowns at sea in a storm. Unable to face life without her, Aurélie throws herself from a cliff. Mimi, left on her own, forms a liaison with her childhood companion Adèle, who unfortunately also dies young. The French government erects a statue to honor the bravery of the Brittany fishermen and the love of Aurélie and Philippe, but when the Saint Pol townspeople discover that Philippe was born Philippa, they destroy it. The lives of our lesbian foremothers were full of drama and disaster.

Although *Légende* sets out to be a sort of lesbian historical romance, as in *Lovers in the Present Afternoon* the action takes place mostly in the heroines' heads. *Patience and Sarah*, a book of a similar genre, was important to many lesbians because it gave us a sense of the history of our sexual identity, as well as an inkling of how our lesbian foremothers may have tried to integrate that identity into their daily lives. Even with their contrived plots and stereotyped characters, pulps like those of Ann Bannon or Paula Christian are still readable today because they paint a vivid picture of urban lesbian life 20 or 30 years ago. However, 19th century France is no more real in *Légende* than 1970s America is in *Lovers, etc.*, keeping the book from becoming anything more than a sentimental tearjerker.

It's a disappointing, though I'm afraid not surprising, comment on the writing of some white lesbians, that Becky Birtha, who is the only black writer under review here, is also the only writer in whose stories the world is assumed to include both blacks and

Continued on Vacation Supplement page 6

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Relaxation and Satisfaction at Cape Inn

By Sue Hyde

Douglas Ping and Michael Campbell offer Provincetown diners a somewhat small but satisfying menu at their Cape Inn, located at 135 Bradford, P'town's "other" street. Like its decor, the Cape Inn menu depends heavily on the sea. From the first appetizer listed — Wellfleet oysters on the half shell — to the final entree — local lobster — the menu pays tribute to P'town's fishing-village character.

In addition to oysters, the appetizer list included steamed mussels, sauteed scampi with mushroom caps, a pate or terrine of the day (chicken liver), and a vegetable appetizer of the day. On special that evening were Oysters Diamond Jim Brady. We selected the vegetable appetizers, Oysters Diamond Jim, and the mussels. The vegetable appetizer arrived as a puff pastry made of filo dough and filled with cauliflower, broccoli, peppers, cheese and a champagne sauce. The dough was properly flakey and the vegetables cooked just to al dente. The Oysters Diamond Jim would have benefited from a touch of garlic, as they were a nice idea, but needed some zip. Five oysters, topped with a tomato sauce and cheese, were broiled and delivered piping hot. The mussels, steamed in wine, wafted a bit of ocean air with a hint of garlic. They were the real thing, A-1 and fresh.

We sampled the clam chowder — a rich, thick oniony potion that warded off the chill of a cool and rainy evening.

Salads of romaine lettuce, red cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes and carrots refreshed our taste buds. A creamy mustard dressing and a tangy buttermilk dressing replete with tarragon dressed the salads. They were accompanied by a crunchy, hot french bread and a litre of crisp white wine Maitre Rodet Blanc.

From the entree list, we chose a seafood pasta, broiled swordfish with a walnut sauce, roast duckling, and a special chicken dish, dubbed chicken Hawaiian. Duck is not one of my favorite meats; I find it to be a lot of jaw work for an unrewarding flavor. But I was assured by my dinner partners that the Cape Inn's roast duck, half a bird glazed with an orange-cranberry sauce, was

just ducky, done to a perfect crispy turn.

The swordfish with walnut sauce made an impressive entrance, covering nearly half its plate and studded with walnuts. The mild sauce allowed the fish to come through — happily in this region of great swordfish.

We ordered the chicken Hawaiian out of curiosity as much as anything else. Bruce, our waiter, described it as a breast of chicken stuffed with a banana (!) and sauced with coconut rum sauce. Who could pass that by? Mark Barnett, executive chef, deserves credit for inventing a dish that is at once so odd and so compelling. The cooked banana was a bit much for me, but one diner at our table happily reported feeling like she was eating a pina colada.

The seafood pasta pleased all four of us. A light tomato sauce dressed fresh fettuccini, broccoli, shrimps, scallops and lobster. The dish was perfect — big chunks of seafood in a generous portion of pasta — and well

worth the price.

We tasted four desserts, all of which were very good. A hazelnut torte proved itself to be a classic, with a nutty flavor mediated by a creamy icing. The linzer torte, served with ice cream, also identified itself as a classic example of its species. A chocolate espresso cake surprised us all with its insistent coffee flavor. The consistency of it suggested coffee grounds had made their way into the cake, but this was unsubstantiated. And the oreo ice cream pie, made at the Cape Inn, pleased its diner with good flavor and an abundance of crushed cookie.

A bill for two, with appetizers, wine, and dessert, was about \$55. And with relaxed service, generous portions and oceanic ambiance, the Cape Inn gives visitors to the coastal town a mellow restaurant, a place to sigh and be thankful for the weekend holiday.

Believe it Or Not



The Tea Dance Was Invented by Lesbians

That's right. The ever-popular tradition of "tea dance," which now enables gay men to drink and pick up tricks before 6 PM, was invented by two lesbians, Elsie de Wolfe and Bessie Marbury, in 1918.

Marbury, the major American theatrical agent for European writers and artists, and de Wolfe, who singlehandedly invented interior decorating and revolutionized Victorian notions of how a room should look, opened an exclusive dance studio on Madison Ave., just as ballroom dancing was becoming the American pastime and preoccupation. Embraced by popular culture, such dancing was soundly condemned by church spokespeople and other moralists. By opening up a refined dance hall, presided over by such friends as Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, and Mrs. W.G. Rockefeller (who served tea), Marbury and de Wolfe insured themselves plenty of patrons and were innured against any criticism.

An instant success, the tea dance became a staple of American social intercourse. Although the Marbury/de Wolfe venture flourished for only a few seasons, the tea dance survived. Becoming first a requirement of the debutante set, and later of women's colleges, it is now alive and well in gay bars. And why not? It was invented by homosexuals, intimately connected with coming-out parties, and thrived on same-sex institutions. After more than 70 years, the tea-dance lives on as a gay institution.

— Michael Bronski

Bessie Marbury, 1919

PROVINCETOWN CARNIVAL WEEK

18 SATURDAY

Sing-a-long at the Moors with Lenny: Moors Restaurant, Bradford St. Ext. 3-5PM Donation \$2. Bring your voices and make merry!

A premier concert performance: **The Boston Gay Men's Chorus**. 8PM at the Universalist Church, 236 Commercial St. Donation \$3.

19 SUNDAY

Annual Pink & Blue Ball: Backstreet Bar 9PM-1AM Gifford House Hotel, Bradford & Carver Streets. Dancing, costume judging, cash prizes. Donation \$3.

20 MONDAY

Christmas in August: Pied Piper, 193 Commercial St. 9PM-1AM. A festive party with all the trimmings, and an array of give-away prizes. Donation \$3.

First Annual **Waitron Marathon**: 2PM, Ryder Street, alongside Town Hall. Each business is allowed up to two waiter contestants. Prizes awarded to best male and female winners. For details call 487-3172. Entry applications available at Guild office, 115 Bradford St.

Fashion Show: Bas Relief Park [near Town Hall]. 3-4PM. P-Town's finest fashions on exhibit.

Arts & Crafts Fair at the Bas Relief Park [near Town Hall]. Co-sponsored by PBG and Lower Cape Arts & Humanities. 11AM-6PM. For details call 487-0963.

21 TUESDAY

Mr. Provincetown Contest at the Cape Inn, 135 Bradford St. 9PM-1AM. Prizes for the winner, entertainment for all. For applications and info: call 487-9648. Donation \$2.

22 WEDNESDAY

Grand Finale Carnival Ball: Boatslip Motor Inn, 161 Commercial St. 9PM-1AM. \$350 worth of prizes. Donation \$3.

All carnival information available at the Provincetown Guild office, 115 Bradford St., 487-3332, -3686, -2313.

Note: **Guesthouse Cocktail Parties** throughout Carnival Week. Schedules posted at PBG guesthouses and businesses.



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By Cindy Patton
 Provincetown on the Fourth of July: the beginning of "The Season." The first of ten grueling weeks until Labor Day, the end of "The Season." The ten short weeks when people have to make their money or else come to grips with the fact that they will not be returning for another summer as a worker or entrepreneur.

Big changes occur during the 4th of July week. The regulars are prepared for this, but I am not. I have grown used to the quiet, nearly deserted weekdays, the busy, but still not crowded weekends. During the week I can go to the beach, do a little writing, jog from my house in the West End around the rotary, and back down Bradford Street. Some days, I head for a run on the beach, but generally I prefer to go through town to see who's on the meat rack, see if there are any cute new women in town.

It's easy to meet people when there are fewer visitors in town. The new batch of workers are eagerly looking for summer friends, people like themselves who don't quite know the ropes and are not yet exhausted by the ten-week marathon of work that is ahead.

The 4th of July changes everything. Those who live in Provincetown either for the summer or year-round have grown a little bored with the quiet part of the summer. All the shops are open, all the new residents have been met; now we think we are ready for "The Season."

But the 4th of July shocks us. We new workers think it is a surprise only for us, but our friends — the veterans of this transformation — are also unprepared. There are more people, more cars, more policemen directing the people and cars, and still more people. I decide to have a wild night out and go into town. No matter which direction I go, I feel like I'm walking against the crowd. I wonder what I have gotten myself in for. I see a friend who says, "It's going to be like this for the next ten weeks."

People of every shape and variety carom around me carrying food of every description. Mustard-slathered hot-dogs and cannolis swathed in powdered sugar threaten to leap out of children's hands and smear themselves on my clean white pants and my special tight black t-shirt. There are only two laundromats in Provincetown. I have to fight with tens of thousands of tourists, not to mention my fellow slaves, the hundreds who dirty their clothes in restaurants and shops, in order to get a washer. I begin to see some value in the paper clothes I have seen stocked in one of the more avant-garde clothing stores.

"The Season." Everyone acts crazy. Middle-aged

Changing
in ProvincetownA SIGH of RELIEF
of BEING

straight men wear baseball hats with animals on them. French Canadians dress in the height of fashion. I am trying to be the worst-dressed dyke of the summer with my cut-off levis. The non-stop frenzy and continual onslaught of new people is a dream come true at first, but it's a paralyzing shock to realize it will be the day-in, day-out reality for the next 10 weeks. We have to work harder to keep up, there are more people to clean up after, entertain, and give street directions to. More people to fight through to get to the beer bar at tea dance. More people who want dinner dates, friends and more friends coming to camp in my kitchen on their one week off.

Provincetown becomes, for those ten weeks, a ritual of celebration which is repeated day after day for the benefit of an ever-changing cast of visitors. Tea dance is daily, and there is no such thing as the weekend.

Of course, this is my first voyage through "The Season," but I am a long-time Fall visitor; I know how the transformation of the Spring will reverse itself into the calm of Fall. I know what I am looking forward to

after Labor Day.

Provincetown is a mix of natural and human resources: multi-dimensional and magical. Each season in Provincetown fits a certain mood, provides the opportunity for a certain type of vacation. Provincetown has New England's four distinct seasons, each with attributes peculiar to Cape Cod.

The fragile, natural environment of the far reaches of Cape Cod go through the same cycles they have for eons, more or less disregarding human intrusion. Humans have of course changed the Cape's appearance, interrupted the natural interaction of wind and wave on sand and scrubby little trees. That's why the rangers throw people out of the dunes. (Well, it's at least part of the reason why they throw people out of the dunes.)

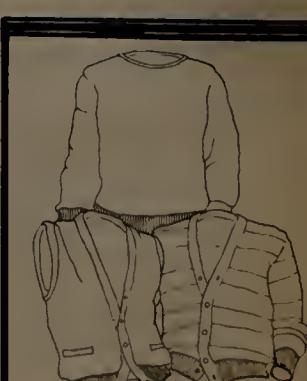
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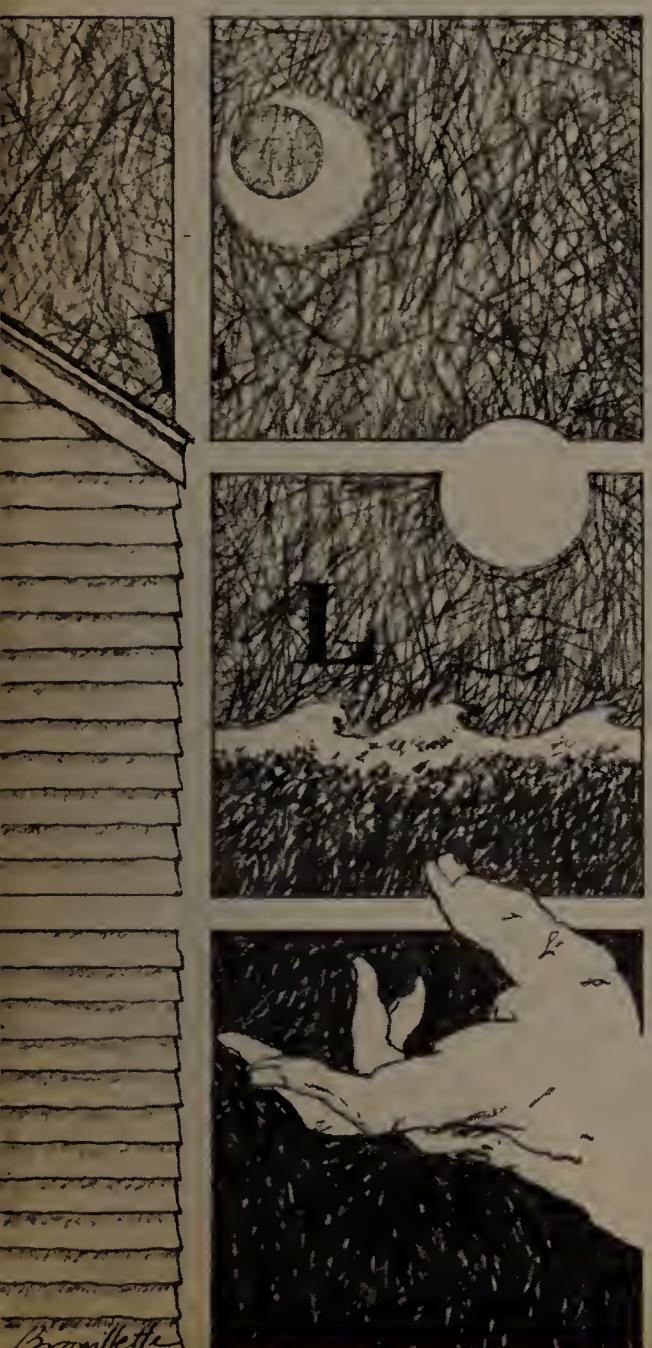
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Seasons Provincetown



Paul Brouillette

EF — A BREATH

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About 70 percent of the "Outer Cape" is National Seashore Park, which affords an excellent opportunity to see one of the most fragile ecosystems in America. Rare bird and plant species even line the highways that carry people to and from the Outer Cape towns. The Audubon Society in South Wellfleet, the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown and the visitors' center at the Province Lands near Race Point beach in Provincetown offer guided trips through the various types of ecological niches that make up Cape Cod. You can learn about the fragile marshes, the differences between geological constructions of banks and dunes. Learning about the physical environment increases your appreciation of the Cape, and also teaches philosophical lessons about the balance between nature and people. There is an expression often

lived in Provincetown for a decade said, "Not everyone likes it, but they've all either worked for, with, or employed gay people for as long as they can remember." It's not exactly as if the revolution hit Provincetown, but there is a feeling of safety, even possessiveness about gay life in Provincetown. The tables are turned, since the best spots in town are gay. Straight people are often outnumbered. The sense that Provincetown, or at least part of it, is "ours" is present in every season, and sometimes easier to appreciate during the off-season.

Provincetown is full of contrasts and ironies; most people either love it or hate it. If you've loved it for its summers, try the off-season, too. The slower pace affords the opportunity to soak up the last rays of sun and relish its quirkiness before the winter. If you hate the summer insanity of Provincetown, you may find that the fall permits bicycling, aimless walks in the dunes and moments of quiet introspection. Perhaps Provincetown in the fall is what you've been searching for all summer.

repeated when unknowledgeable newcomers choose building sites too close to the edge of marshes or dunes: "Nature will have her way." There is more than one abandoned vacation home sitting precariously on the edge of an eroded dune.

There are numerous other natural activities to take advantage of in the fall that you might have missed in the frenzy and heat of the summer. Most people have ridden the bike trails to the beach. But in the slower, more leisurely paced off-season, you may want to get off your bicycle and take a closer look at the plants and animals, and the way the sand shifts and erodes.

Visual artists have long been aware of the unique light on the Cape. The blues of the sky and water sit in stark contrast to the bleached beige and cream coloring of the sand on sunny days. But the Fall colors, with more ominous grey and melancholy orange due to the lower position of the sun on the horizon, are alone worth the trip. Though not everyone can paint, most people can operate a camera. Take some time out to observe the subtle changes in lighting that take place from hour to hour and with changes in weather.

The fall off-season brings with it a different type of personal interaction. Gone is the intense cruising and pressure to make this one week of the year fabulous beyond expectation. Along with a heavy sigh of relief that the peak work season is done comes a friendly, laid-backness of people saying goodbye to summer friends. The waning days of the late summer and early fall seem especially precious because of the desolate and harsh winter soon to follow. The seasonal people are making their final decisions about whether to stay for the winter this year or go back to wherever they came from, whatever they were getting away from.

The resident lesbian and gay community becomes more evident in the off-season. Certainly, the summer months offer a lush and varied display of gaydom. But once the vacationers from Dubuque and Pittsburgh, New York and San Francisco have gone home, the reality of lesbian and gay life in Provincetown becomes more visible. Here is a town where, for whatever problems exist, the lesbians and gay men are truly part of the community. That is not to say that homophobia has left Provincetown; it exists in subtle and not so subtle forms. But for several generations, Portuguese, gay, and WASP residents have grown up side by side, not always unsuspectingly embracing each other, but at least tolerantly co-existing with their shared history of putting on the frenzied pageant of "The Season." One friend who has

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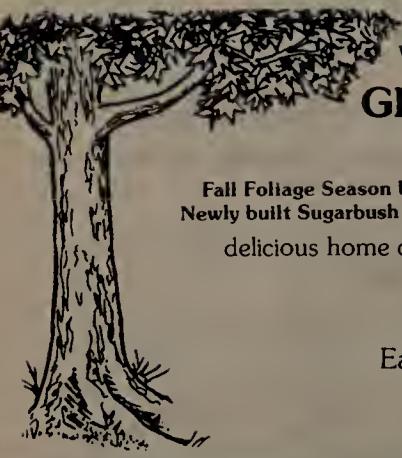
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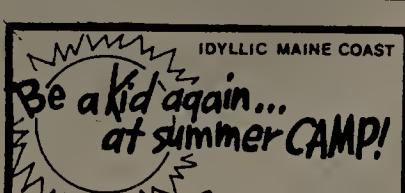
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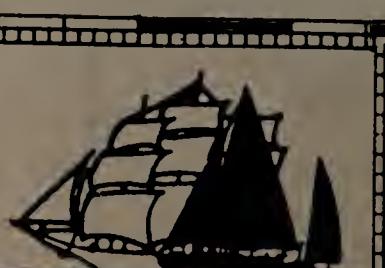
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Beach Reading

Continued from Vacation Supplement page 2

whites. Most of the protagonists in the stories in *For Nights Like This One* are city lesbians who live together in monogamous, fairly insular relationships. They wear flannel shirts, blue jeans, corduroys and sweaters, and spend their evenings quietly at home, talking or perhaps reading lesbian novels out loud. None live in collective households, nor do any of them seem to be heavily involved in political work or the women's community. In fact, when the women's community appears, like the rest of the outside world it is often as a threat rather than as a support to the women's relationships.

In "A Monogamy Story" Emily and Sima find their relationship threatened when Emily decides to attend a conference of women writers for the weekend. In "A Four-Sided Figure" Ellen struggles with her jealousy when her lover Kelcy decides to invite Jamie, her ex, and Jamie's current lover to dinner. Emily enjoys the conference but decides that none of the women there hold the appeal for her that Sima does. And Ellen's jealousy is assuaged when Kelcy finally offers to repudiate her relationship with Jamie and assures her that Ellen is more important to her than "all that." In both stories, the relationships are preserved when the lovers decide to weaken their commitments to the outside community in order to renew their bonds with one another. On her way to the conference Emily uncritically notes that,

"In the time that they had been lovers, they have always chosen to be together, passing up activities that only one or the other was interested in doing. This was the first time that pattern had intentionally been broken."

If lovers can't completely share their interests and commitments, then, as Jessica explains in "The Woman Who Loved Dancing," "There was no way to work it out.... That's all. We broke up." (There are no break-ups or endings in these stories, however, only beginnings and middles.) If they wish to stay together, lesbian lovers need to learn how to fulfill each other's every need: in "Babies," Lurie is finally able to give up her dream of raising a child when she realizes that Sabra, her girlfriend, is the only one she needs to love:

But Sabra only said, "Can't I be your baby?"

And Lurie said, "You are. You are my baby." And she held her and rocked her very gently as she would have rocked the child she had always wanted to love."

The stories are a celebration of lesbian fusion.

While I don't believe, as Birtha seems to, that there is an inevitable, irresolvable conflict between being committed to people or interests outside of your relationship, and within it, I did find her depiction of this dichotomy most relevant and moving in the stories about issues that intrude upon relationships between black and white women. In "A Sense of Loss" Liz, a black lesbian, attends her grandmother's funeral and visits with her family from whom she has felt increasingly alienated since she came out. She wonders if her white lover could possibly understand her grandmother's life and Liz's love for her. However, when she returns home, she discovers that that is where she can truly grieve:

"My grandma," she sobbed. "My grandma's dead." She cried like a child while Mandy held her close. And she knew now where her home was, her family: here in the arms of the woman who loved her, who understood.

Liz chooses between her family, whom she cares for nonetheless, and her true self, and yet the fact remains: you can take the girl out of the family, but you can't take the family out of the girl. I hope that at some point in the future Liz will have to choose again, and will figure out a way to validate her whole self.

Like many lesbians who came out in the '70s, I'm very curious about dykes of my parents' generation, and I constantly look for lesbian role models. Lee Lynch seems to have written *Old Dyke Tales* to satisfy this need. The nostalgic reminiscences of the older lesbians who are the heroines of these *Tales* are meant to reassure us that lesbian relationships and friendships are deep enough and strong enough to have carried these women through whole, satisfying lifetimes, and they can carry us younger women, too. Even in her eighties, Augusta Breenan still has enough spunk to seduce her neighbor over lunch. Connie and Trudy, lovers in their fifties, are inspired to take a small step out of the closet by two younger lesbians who came near them on their annual vacation. Contrary to our culture's ageist assumptions, the lesbians in these stories make big changes — weather crises, meet new friends, start affairs — at all stages of their lives. After the intense emotional worlds of the other books I read for this review, it was a relief to read in *Old Dyke Tales* about lesbians who work — the women in the *Tales* tend bar, work in factories, offices, gas stations, run a fruitstand — pay rent, ride buses, buy groceries. Their minds are often occupied, like mine, with the trivia of daily survival.

Unfortunately, in her affectionate stories of these crusty older women, Lynch crusts it up a bit too much. Her characters are all so salt-of-the-earth. I liked them, but found myself wary of believing in them. Despite (or perhaps because of) its consciousness-raising and inspirational intentions, the book did not wholly convince me that the women in it exist.

Continued on Vacation Supplement page 7

Franco's — A Place to Indulge

by Sue Hyde

Franco Palumbo and Evans Siskel aptly named their spiffy, six-week-old Provincetown restaurant. Stashed behind a Commercial Street storefront, the dramatically decorated Franco's Hideaway holds forth with an entrance on one of those charming cul-de-sac side streets that dead-end in P-town's harbor. Though hidden away from traffic, Franco's has already overcome its obscure location and has taken a place among the very best dining spots in this resort town.

An almost life-sized paper doll figurine of a woman who looks very much like Jean Harlow beckons diners to the door. Entering at one side of the dining room, we were immediately struck by the decor, loyal to every art deco detail and startling in pinks and greys and black. Each black-tabled booth bears the name of a '30s Hollywood legend: Dolores Del Rio, Dorothy Lamour, Hedda Hopper, Anna May Wong, and Ruby Keeler. Our party was shown to the Tallulah Bankhead booth, on the far side of the 42-seat dinner house.

With an ambiance so impressive and yet so comfortable, we began to anticipate that our sun-drenched bodies would be refreshed by the meals that followed. We were not disappointed. Headed off by a breadbasket of varied and tender sweet and plain breads and finished off by a flourish of pralines and chocolate, a nearly perfect dinner delighted eye as well as taste bud.

Our waiter presented us with menus and forewarned us that the special salads would not be available that evening. With humor and kitchen savvy we were to enjoy all evening, he said, "You wouldn't want to face that rotted."

From the appetizer list, we selected the stuffed mushrooms and the crab nachos. Our waiter congratulated us on our choices — with good reason, we discovered. The giant mushrooms were stuffed with crabmeat, topped with parmesan cheese, then broiled, retaining the integrity and flavor of the mushroom while letting the delicate crab come through. Mmmmm. The crab nachos made an even bigger hit with us. All Tex/Mex fans, we were doubly pleased with the addition of large chunks of succulent crabmeat to our staple of cheddar cheese and green chilis bubbling on crunchy corn chips.

To sample soup offerings, we ordered the soup du jour and the clam chowder. The soup of the day, a cold carrot crabmeat bisque seasoned with basil, blessed us with a heavenly taste. Both carrot and crabmeat were brought out in this simple but elegant concoction. And the clam chowder was an extremely honest rendition of the New England classic, true to the flavor of clams and cream.

I am happy to report that Franco Palumbo does not subscribe to the portion theories of the skimpy but trendy nouvelle cuisine. In a chat with us at our table, the jovial and teddy-bearish Palumbo confessed that he loves food and wanted us to love it, too — in no small quantities. The former executive chef of Weight Watchers International, Palumbo has tipped the scales well past his present weight and is no stranger to the perils of a high calorie lifestyle. Nevertheless, with gusto and enthusiasm,

Palumbo serves sinfully rich food in generous portions. After all, the evening's diner oft becomes the morning's swimmer or runner.

Evans Siskel, in his role as maitre d', offers a wine or drink du jour. On our Hideaway evening, Siskel chose a crisp, full-bodied French white which suited at least three of our dinners, and the fourth dinner didn't complain. While Siskel is pouring his special wines, Palumbo is back in the kitchen, working with a menu so flexibly composed that nearly all the saute dishes change nightly. The chicken, veal, tournedos and marinated steak are subject to Franco's daily whim, which makes for a more interesting dining experience and a more interesting cooking experience. Lastly, all the pasta dishes are available by half order.

All entrees were preceded by a fresh green salad with a sweet mustard dressing, topped with either feta or blue cheese. From the entree list, we chose a lobster dish, shrimp pasta, a chicken dish and the tournedos du jour. The lobster Savannah boasted big chunks of shellfish in a Newburg sauce with mushrooms, green peppers, pimentos and brandy. Although on the face of it, it reminded me of Mom's chicken a la king, I quickly abandoned that comparison, persuaded by the lobster itself. I'm a sucker for a creamed seafood dish, but I was not merely seduced by Franco's Savannah; I was head over heels for it.

The tournedos marchand had been ordered medium, but arrived on the far side of medium. The tournedos, however, were accompanied by a crunchy medley of stir-fried zucchini, yellow squash, carrots and green peppers and rice flavored with vegetables.

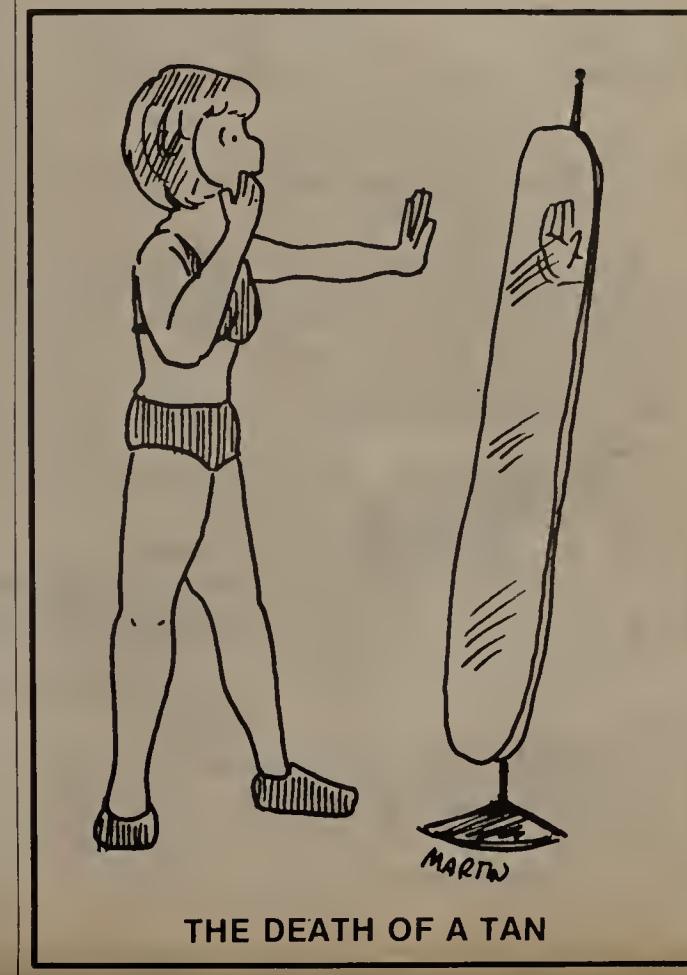
Franco departed from a classic pesto with his shrimp pesto entry. It was properly aromatic with basil, but surprised with a tomatoey sauce and flavor. Once the surprise subsided, though, perfectly *al dente* pasta and big shrimp rose to the top of the diner's consciousness.

The chicken entree for the evening was a breast stuffed with ham and provolone cheese and smothered in a creamy marsala sauce. While I'm no ham fan, the dish worked well, mediating a slightly salty flavor (ham) and a slightly sweet flavor (marsala) with a juicy breast of chicken and mellow cheese.

Entrees we didn't sample: sole or haddock broiled or stuffed with crabmeat; veal saute marsala; veal francais; a beef stroganoff; a beef shishkabob; veal tortellini with alla romano sauce, ham and peas; and a fettuccini alfredo and a house pasta.

We rounded off (literally by this time) with hefty cups of hot intense coffee and two desserts: a meringue with coffee ice cream topped with a restaurant-made praline sauce, and an outrageously moist chocolate cake named for TV character Rhoda Morgenstern. We were directed to the cake by the following Rhoda quotation on the menu: "Cottage cheese solves nothing... Chocolate cake solves everything."

Franco's is an altogether satisfying dining experience. Prices are moderately high; our bill for four just topped \$100. But when on vacation, what better way to blow a bundle than indulging all senses at a great restaurant? And what better place to indulge than Franco's.



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Beach Reading

Continued from Vacation Supplement page 6

Although all of these books deal, almost exclusively, with love, none of them deal with sex. The characters hold hands, gaze indefatigably into each other's eyes, and spend long hours lying quietly in each other's arms, but rarely seem to experience lust or passion as a force to be reckoned with in their lives. One passage from *Lovers in The Present Afternoon* could be dogeared if one were desperate, but even here it is unclear whether Lynn and Ruth are fucking or walking through the forest:

Lynn lies beneath her caresses as though she walks in a woods where all the foliage is green, where tendrilled ferns blow in the wind and trees with various barks rise smoothly toward the sky, with strands of cloud lightly blowing over. She moves there with no effort of her own. She moves there as though she is herself the wind moving among flowers whose smell she has never known, whose colors blow before her and around her, under and above her, orange and yellow and tulip red, and there is no ending to it and no beginning and she doesn't understand nor need to know but only to be there and hear Ruth's voice and know that it is Ruth and that they are together entirely beautiful.

Since even the most awful lesbian fiction can reflect and affirm our lives and challenge our invisibility, the absence of sex in these books is a serious omission. The amount of satisfaction the characters in these books derive from cuddling made me wonder if there isn't something wrong with me. It also contributed to my sense of the unreality of many of the stories. The lesbian literature we deserve, and towards which we are groping, will have to take up not only love and affection, but lust, jealousy, conflict, work, community — the real, complex issues which make up our lives.

Beach Reading at a Glance

Golden States

Michael Cunningham
Crown Publishers
New York
1984, 241 pp., \$12.95

The Inheritor

Marion Zimmer Bradley
Tor Books
New York
1984, 414 pp., 13.95

Slate

Nathan Aldyne
Villard Books
New York
1984, 188 pp., \$12.95

The Foundling

Frank Lauria
Pocket Books
New York
1984, 284 pp., \$3.50

I, Vampire

Jody Scott
Ace Science Fiction Books
New York
1984, 206 pp., \$2.50

Reviewed by Michael Bronski

Boston's favorite detective duo — Dan Valentine and Carisse Lovelace — are back for the third time. Their earlier adventures in *Vermillion* and *Cobalt* made them a hit both in Boston and around the country. For

anyone who has tuned in late: Valentine is the thinking queen's clone and Clarisse is his straight sidekick. All they ever want to do is go on with their lives and have lots of sex (not, of course, with each other) but corpses, mysteries and assorted solvable crimes keep dropping in their paths.

This time around Val is opening a bar — "Slate" — and Clarisse is trying to go to law school. Needless to say, nothing goes right and soon they are immersed in sleuthing and deducing once again. Set in Boston's South End, *Slate* presents a pleasant read through familiar sights and sounds. Aldyne's strong point, as usual, is telling a good story filled with detailed and amusing descriptions of people, places and events.

Although not as strong on plot as its predecessors, *Slate* still has the wit and verve that made *Vermillion* and *Cobalt* such good reads. Like Nick and Nora Charles (in the film, not the novel, of *The Thin Man*) Valentine and Clarisse lighten the usual skulduggery with witticisms and a *bon vivant* attitude that is very gay. If they have done nothing else — and they have; being a good read is not inconsiderable — these novels have given a strong shot of both wit and politics into the mystery genre.

Slate hedges some of its bets and makes one or two minor missteps in plotting, but is, on the whole, a great beach read.

"She looks like an angel, but is she the devil's daughter?" blurts out the jacket copy on this paperback original, and the premise is tempting. Sort of son — daughter, actually — of *The Omen III*. But the kicker is that not only is she the devil, or at least dangerously supernatural, she is also a teenage lesbian. (Now that would make a great 1950s schlock/horror feast: *I Was a Teenage Lesbian* on a double bill with *My Daughter, The Devil*.)

But alas, *The Foundling* is the sort of trash that gives beach reading a bad name. Aside from an insufferable predictability, incompetent writing (people appear in rooms without having entered them, an occurrence engendered by faulty plotting rather than the supernatural), and just plain, terminal silliness, *The Foundling* is permeated with the most basic, obnoxious tenets of sexism and homophobia. Recommended only for the most desperate beach readers.

• • •

Marion Zimmer Bradley has a reputation for writing good crypto-lesbian science-fiction novels, and has been highly praised for her last work, *The Mists of Avalon*, a feminist retelling of the Arthurian legends. Her newest novel, however, a psychic thriller, *The Inheritor*, is crap. The story of Leslie, an unwilling medium, and her musically talented sister, who are tormented by spirits, black magic, nasty boyfriends, and "powers beyond their control," is at once trite, too long, and mildly offensive.

And to make matters even worse, she has included the most implausible, and tiresome, heterosexual romance which not only is uninteresting but, because it necessitates a happy ending, undercuts whatever minimal interest the novel has going for it. Bradley's style had never been snappy but is almost unreadable here. Endless description intercut with terrible dialogue bloat the book to over 400 pages. The thin plot, dumb characters, and air-headed concepts could have been dealt with sufficiently in less than half that length. Almost completely devoid of any interest, Bradley seems to be promising her readers that the bored shall inherit the earth.

• • •

I, Vampire is a wonderfully rare mixture, a science fiction novel that has adventure, wit, great writing, politics, and both intelligence and something to say. Sterling O'Blivion is a 700-year-old lesbian vampire who falls in love with an alien from Rysiam who is a dead ringer for Virginia Woolf. The aliens are attempting to elevate life on Earth by selling "famous men's sperm kits," and Sterling gets a job as head of sales and production.

Deftly woven into this plot (which can only be described as fabulous, in both the classic and contemporary senses of the word) are digressions on human consciousness, the nature of time, the implausibility of reality, and the basically up-beat message that things do evolve for the better. Scott has created a whole new universe — as well as a whole new set of presumptions to support it — and while there are some nods to earlier books, especially Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joanna Russ's *The Female Man*, *I, Vampire* is one of the best, most original, feminist science-fiction novels (or any other sort of fiction) published in years.

If writing fiction is an act of the imagination, and if reading it is an expansion of that imagination, *I, Vampire* is an overwhelming success. Scott offers not only a few hours of escape but shows us that what we call everyday life — in both the general and the specific — is not only damaging and harmful, but also jejune, a much graver sin against the limitless imagination. At \$2.50 you can't go wrong with this one.

• • •

Golden States is a simple, quite magical, story of a 12-year-old trying to come to age — or at least make sense of life — in Southern California. David Stark lives with his divorced mother, younger, spunky sister, and — for the time being — his older sister, who has come home to avoid a marriage. Surrounded by women, and estranged from his best friend Billy, David is always attempting to place who and what he is and what other people expect from him.

The novel is told from David's point of view and manages to be ingenious without every bordering on the simpering or the overly cute. His perceptions are presented with honesty and with a minimum of editorializing. The voice is fresh, and never reaches into the posturing of over-invention or annoying singularity.

Although very few of his thoughts are actually about sex, *Golden States* captures perfectly a youthful state of preconscious sexuality. David's encounter with a gay man, towards the end of the novel, is handled with honesty in regard to both parties and is probably one of the best scenes of boy/man sexual encounter written. Although it is a novel of small scope, *Golden States* deals with its material unusually well.

• • • • •

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Outdoor Sex

Continued from page 6



Jim McNeil

Boston), Henson soberly replied, "It is the policy of this office to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any criminal activity that is brought to our attention.... The office policy is that we will prosecute cases; that's what we're here for." Henson did add, however, that "it's not one of our highest priorities. We don't have any special group working on it."

Norfolk County District Attorney William Delahunt said that in his county, which includes cruising areas in Dedham and the Blue Hills, "it's always been my policy that consenting adults are entitled to their privacy. If a law is being violated, obviously I have an obligation to enforce that law." But, Delahunt said, with regard to heterosexual or homosexual "necking in parked cars," "I don't think that's the affair of government."

In Boston, Mayoral Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community Ann Maguire said arrests on the Esplanade and along the Fens were beyond the control of Mayor Raymond Flynn. "It's going on in Boston," Maguire said, "but it's MDC property."

"I do know," added Maguire, "that there have been lots of complaints coming from people living

around the rest areas.... It's one means the police have of responding to a problem. I think what you do first is investigate and see what's happening.... I think sometimes you solve the problem using an overt presence. Instead of moving in undercover you pull in with a marked car."

Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance Chairperson Eric Rofes said he was unaware that arrests were being made within the city of Boston. "It has not come to my attention and no Alliance member has raised it yet," he said. "I suppose we'll have to discuss it at our next meeting."

"It seems to me that it's the kind of problem to be addressed by lesbian and gay political organizations," says John Ward. "Pressure has to be brought on the district attorneys in these counties, who are elected officials, against unprincipled and lawless police behavior of this kind, which rips off every member of society.... I think that's the answer, because individuals are so poorly situated to fight this on a case by case basis. It should be high on the list of priorities of people who hold themselves out to be leaders of the lesbian and gay community."

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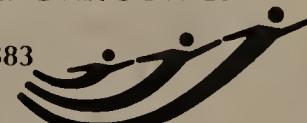
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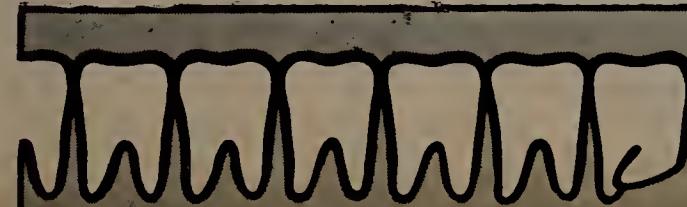
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—David Ansen, NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Deming

Continued from page 6

In late July 1983, she was arrested with 53 other women in the town of Waterloo, N.Y. They were confronted by a mob of angry townspeople, mostly men, while the women peacefully walked from Seneca Falls to the Seneca Army Depot at Romulus, to protest the U.S. deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles to Europe.

Barbara wrote about her peace and anti-racist work, as well as her own struggles as a woman and as a lesbian, in *Prison Notes* (1966, hopefully soon to be reprinted), *Revolution and Equilibrium* (1971), *We Cannot Live Without Our Lives* (1974), and *Remembering Who We Are* (1981). Selections from these works and other writings are collected in *We Are All Part of One Another* (New Society Press, 1984). Her novel, *A Humming Under My Seat — A Book of Travail*, will be published in the spring of 1985 by the Women's Press of London.

Barbara was diagnosed with cancer in February of this year. After a painful struggle that included surgery and chemotherapy, it became clear, in mid-July, that she was dying. She declared that, contrary to society's dictates, she was "not going to go off and die discreetly." Instead, summoning up a fiery energy, she spent the last two weeks settling practical matters and visiting with family and friends, on the phone and in person, talking over the love and friendship between her and them, and the fact of her death.

Besides saying goodbye, she spent time preparing to die. She called this "dancing toward death." And some nights, a group of women gathered at the house to sing and meditate with her on this dance. One night as we chanted, she stood, tightened the drawstring of her pants, (she was very thin), raised

her hands and danced a little in her own elegant, angular way.

Barbara died four days later on Lammas, the day the sun was midway between the fullness of summer and the fall dy-

ing of light, a day celebrated as harvest day and a day of completion. In the way of her dying, she stood and faced death as she had faced others who stood in opposition to her, see-

ing both an enemy and a friend; and in the way of her dying, she faced herself, once again showing us a different way to live.

For those wishing to express love and respect for Barbara,

donations to the tax-exempt fund which she helped establish are welcome: Money for Women Fund, 207 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

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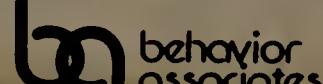
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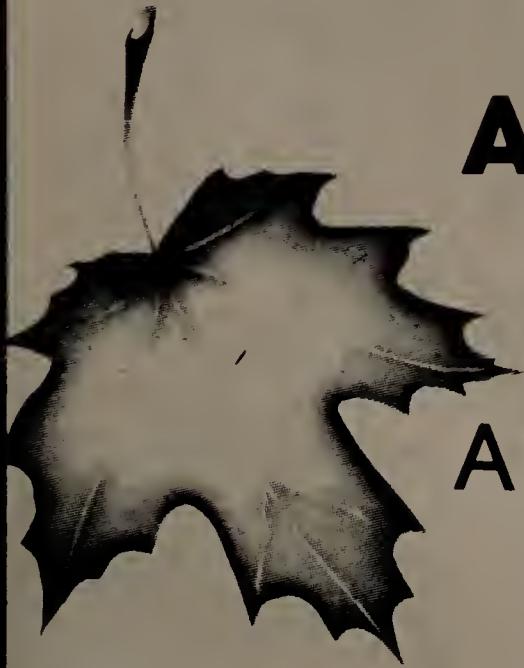
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HOW GAY IS YOUR LIBRARY?

Pamphlet of tips for non-librarians on how to get gay materials into libraries, available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries" explains library selection policies in a general way, and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books & periodicals. Also tells what to do if library refuses your request; why gay bks are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them; & how to donate materials to the library. \$1 to Barbara Gittings — GTF, P.O. Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. Bkstore & bulk order discount available. More info: Barbara Gittings (215) 382-3222. (c)

If you have paperback (especially gay) books that you've read and don't want, the Prisoner Project would like them to send out to prisoners: Fiction or non-fiction, gay or straight; many of our prisoner readers are in fo? "crimes of love" (outdoor sex, man/boy sex, etc.), and books on these subjects are much sought. Please call Mike at 426-4469.

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ADMIN.ASST., part-time, to work at MCI Framingham as a team member of comprehensive women's health ed. program. Responsible for monitoring program activities and budget. Proven secretarial/administrative skills required. Experience working in multi-racial groups preferred. Send resume to Boston Women's Health Book Collective, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02172. Call 924-0271 for further info. (7)

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I am young and fun and hot 'n horny and lookig for someone that is also looking for a lasting relationship, so if there is anyone out there that is lonely and looking for some real love please write: Ronald RIVERS, Pouch 1 Apt. A1-7, Woodburne NY 12788.

I'm looking for a young gay man to be a penpal with me. I am a bisexual needing a true gay friend to write or maybe come a visit me after we get to know each other by mail. The gays that are here cannot deal with their homosexuality and do not wish to share themselves without limitations. Basically they want to stay in the closet, so to speak. Respectfully, John D. Kelly, 30 Administration Rd, Bridgewater MA 02324.

I received your sample paper and have not totally finished it yet but I feel the need to express my appreciation by informing you that it's great! Please feel free to place me on your penpal list and to send me any extra books in any category. I'm openminded to universal topics. I will be more than happy to write you for publication or whatever about my experiences here in prison in the overall political view and also my personal one. Thank you! Thomas M. HENRY, 81A:4477, H4-35, Box B, Dannemora NY 12929.

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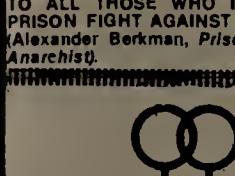
My thanks goes out to all of my gay friends who has made my time a little easier. On 9/12 I'll be RELEASED! to NYC, where I don't know anyone. It would be nice to hear from brothers or sisters in that area. Also please tell the staff of GCN that they have helped in my maturing and also in my mental health by sending me the paper each week, and unknowingly have made me proud to be gay. Thank you. Timothy HAXTON, Box 367-MCP, Dannemora NY 12929.

NEW AGE FREETHINKER would like to correspond with men re: your views on sex and life! Gary THUMB, Box 7, Deer Lodge MT 59722.

I am athletic and fun-loving and would like to meet someone who wants a masculine friend genuinely interested in your needs, feelings, emotions, and moods. Nationality no problem. Sincerity a must. Hayes COOK, 170390, PO Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

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My thanks goes out to all of my gay friends who has made my time a little easier. On 9/12 I'll be RELEASED! to NYC, where I don't know anyone. It would be nice to hear from brothers or sisters in that area. Also please tell the staff of GCN that they have helped in my maturing and also in my mental health by sending me the paper each week, and unknowingly have made me proud to be gay. Thank you. Timothy HAXTON, Box 367-MCP, Dannemora NY 12929.



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